

Remarks

Examiner Nguyen is thanked for the thorough Office Action.

In the Claims

Independent claims 1, 7 and 11 have been amended in a manner believed as suggested by the Examiner to define the variables.

Claims 2, 3; 8, 9; and 12, 13 have been canceled as they did, or essentially did, define the constants now defined in the respective independent claims 1, 7 and 11.

Claim 5 has been amended to satisfy antecedent basis requirements as to H_A and H_B .

Claims 6 and 18 have each been amended to satisfy antecedent basis requirements as to t.

Claim Rejections

The Rejection Of Claims 1 To 18 Under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph, as Being Indefinite for Failing to Particularly Point Out and Distinctly Claim the Subject Matter Which Applicant Regards as the Invention

The rejection of claims 1 to 18 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention is acknowledged.

Specifically, the Examiner states that the variables in claims 1 to 18 are undefined. The Examiner "suggested to define the variables, for example, $ER(C, T)$ is etch rate as function of concentration (C) and temperature (T), E_a is activation energy, R is the universal gas constant, T is temperature, C is concentration, ER_0 is a constant, A is another constant, ... etc."

The claims have been so amended and therefore claims 1, 4 to 7, 10, 11 and 14 to 18 are now deemed to be allowable.

Allowable subject matter

The Examiner noted that claims 1 to 18 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office Action. The claims have been so amended and are therefore allowable.

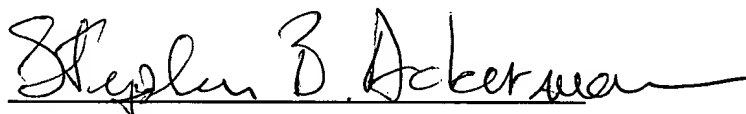
Therefore claims 1, 4 to 7, 10, 11 and 14 to 18 are submitted to be allowable over the cited references and reconsideration and allowance are respectfully solicited.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectively requested. Allowance of all pending claims is requested. Issuance of the application is requested.

It is requested that the Examiner telephone Stephen G. Stanton, Esq. (#35,690) at (610) 296 – 5194 or the undersigned attorney/George Saile, Esq. (#19,572) at (845) 452 – 5863 if the Examiner has any questions or issues that may be resolved to expedite prosecution and place this Application in condition for Allowance.

Respectively submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Stephen B. Ackerman", written over a horizontal line.

Stephen B. Ackerman
Reg. No. 37,761